

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Wastewater Lagoon Improvements
Fessenden (Wells County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380890-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Wastewater Lagoon Improvements project for the City of Fessenden in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion and is exempt from further substantive environmental review.

Because the proposed project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion, a full Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment will not be required. Following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

The proposed project consists of improvements to Fessenden's wastewater lagoons. The original wastewater lagoon system was constructed in 1921 and has been expanded once since then. The lagoons have experienced issues with slope erosion due to a lack of erosion control. During extreme rainfall events the existing lagoons are in danger of failing. This would likely cause significant negative impacts to the surrounding environment and the residents of Fessenden.

These planned wastewater lagoon improvements include reconstructing and shaping the dikes, installing riprap, upgrading the inlets and outlets, and regrading the driveways. This ensures the wastewater treatment system can continue to properly serve the city.

The City of Fessenden has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$2,000,000 to finance a portion of the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within the footprint of the existing wastewater lagoons. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for the project provided it takes place in the manner and location described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0002). It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review

under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Fessenden and Wells County.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDEQ, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Shawn Martin, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 24th day of March, 2025.

David J. Bruschwein, P.E.
Director
Division of Municipal Facilities